

To: Ferrell, Mark[Ferrell.Mark@epa.gov]
Cc: Levine, Carolyn[Levine.Carolyn@epa.gov]
From: Howell, Patrick
Sent: Tue 1/27/2015 4:02:28 PM
Subject: RE: Diesel Spill Lewisburg West Virginia - Representative Evan Jenkins

Mark, this is an excellent update. Please keep us posted on any developments. Thank you

From: Ferrell, Mark [mailto:Ferrell.Mark@epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2015 9:21 PM
To: Howell, Patrick
Cc: Levine, Carolyn
Subject: Re: Diesel Spill Lewisburg West Virginia - Representative Evan Jenkins

Patrick

I am the liaison to West Virginia from the Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Communications and Government Relations. Though my home office is at Region 3 headquarters in Philadelphia, I am a West Virginia native and I live and work in Charleston.

Here's an update of EPA activities for you.

Late afternoon on 1/24/15 the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection notified EPA of an environmental accident in Greenbrier County and requested assistance. As you know, approximately 4,000 gallons of diesel were spilled near a ditch approximately 200 yards from Anthony Creek, a Greenbrier River tributary. EPA on-site coordinators arrived at the scene of the diesel fuel spill that night.

EPA has placed booms in the river to protect the water intake in Alderson. At the spill area, the tributary to Anthony Creek has been diverted so it no longer feeds Anthony Creek. EPA will continue to monitor the situation there, and provide technical assistance as needed and requested.

EPA also took water samples, which were delivered to a local independent lab for analysis. The results of those first samples were received around 6:00pm Monday evening. The results show the river water to be clear of any spill contaminants.

The West Virginia Bureau for Public Health (BPH) announced that the Lewisburg water

authority can start pumping and pressurize their water distribution system. BPH based their decision on the analysis of the water samples by both EPA and the National Guard's Civil Support Team (CST), the booming of the river, and the water authority's contingency measures, e.g. available charcoal filtering. For a next three to four days, the water authority will issue a boil-water advisory until the water distribution system is tested clear of any residual material from the water system shut down. Schools will remain closed during the boil-water advisory but restaurants and businesses can reopen tomorrow.

EPA took two additional rounds of water samples today and expect the results on Tuesday. These samples are to confirm the first round of samples. After appropriate sample results are received, EPA will recommend that the booming can be withdrawn from the river. EPA will remain on-site for the next few days to organize the sample results and to assist Greenbrier County Homeland Security and Emergency Services with any remaining issues.

Please feel free to contact me anytime Rep. Jenkins has questions regarding EPA activities in West Virginia.

~Mark

Mark Ferrell

EPA Region 3

Office of Communications and Government Relations

(304) 542-0231

Ferrell.Mark@epa.gov

From: Howell, Patrick <Patrick.Howell@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2015 10:52 AM
To: Ferrell, Mark; Levine, Carolyn
Cc: Lewis, Josh; Kaiser, Sven-Erik; Moody, Christina
Subject: RE: Diesel Spill Lewisburg West Virginia - Representative Evan Jenkins

Great, is there a way we can set up a conference call with the Congressman around 12:30 today regarding the latest updates?

From: Ferrell, Mark [mailto:Ferrell.Mark@epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2015 9:09 AM
To: Levine, Carolyn

Cc: Howell, Patrick; Lewis, Josh; Kaiser, Sven-Erik; Moody, Christina
Subject: Re: Diesel Spill Lewisburg West Virginia - Representative Evan Jenkins

Hello Patrick

We are meeting this morning to assemble updates on this situation. EPA sent an on-site coordinator (OSC) to Neola from our Wheeling office to monitor and provide technical assistance to DEP within a few hours after the spill. I will get back to you around noon with a situational update.

~Mark

Mark Ferrell

West Virginia Liaison

Office of Communications and Government Relations

EPA Region 3

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 26, 2015, at 8:53 AM, Levine, Carolyn <Levine.Carolyn@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Patrick,

I'm looping in my EPA Region 3 WV liaison who can assist.

Carolyn Levine

U.S. EPA

Office of Congressional Affairs

(202) 564-1859

On Jan 26, 2015, at 8:37 AM, Howell, Patrick <Patrick.Howell@mail.house.gov> wrote:

I wanted to see if Representative Evan Jenkins and I could get a briefing on this issue as soon as possible. Details below. Thank you

West Virginia Gazette

Sunday, January 25, 2015

Lewisburg without water after diesel spill

By [David Gutman](#), Staff writer

Lewisburg and surrounding areas are without water and may not have it restored for three days or more after a tanker overturned late Friday night, spilling nearly 4,000 gallons of diesel fuel into a tributary of the Greenbrier River, emergency officials said.

The city shut down its water plant after the tanker overturned on Route 92, spilling fuel into Anthony Creek, which flows into the Greenbrier. Customers of the Lewisburg Water Department were asked to conserve water, but the system ran out around 3 p.m. on Sunday, said Paula Brown, of Greenbrier County Emergency Management.

Brown said they're not sure when water service will be returned but that they've told residents to plan on being without water for at least three days.

"It's going to be quite a challenge we have with the weather coming in here as well," Brown said. "We've got to wait until that contaminant passes from Lewisburg and then it takes a few days to pressurize the water lines there."

The water intake was shut off before any diesel got into the water treatment plant or the water system, said Al Whitaker, director of homeland security and emergency management for Greenbrier County. He said the intake was shut off about 2 a.m. Saturday. He estimated that the diesel did not reach the water intake, until about noon on Saturday, 10 hours after the intake was shut off.

Water is being distributed from tanker trucks at the State Fairgrounds in Fairlea and Island Park in Ronceverte, Brown said. People are being asked to bring their own containers.

The Lewisburg Water Department serves about 12,000 people from Lewisburg north to Renick and south to Ronceverte.

Area restaurants and businesses were ordered shut down by the health department, Brown said, although they may reopen as they develop alternate water plans.

The Greenbrier Valley Medical Center in Ronceverte has brought in its own water tankers to serve the hospital and dialysis patients and remains open, Brown said.

The tanker was hauling 7,000 gallons of diesel north on 92 when it overturned around 11:30 p.m. about 20 miles from the Lewisbug water treatment plant, Whitaker said. He estimated that it spilled between 3,500 and 3,900 gallons of fuel. He said that cleanup crews began work immediately but were slowed by bad roads and ice.

Officials from the federal Environmental Protection Agency are on the scene conducting water tests. Officials from the state Bureau for Public Health, local health departments, the National Guard, other state agencies and two environmental consulting groups are also on the scene, Brown said.

"It's endless, the number of entities," she said.

The EPA tests require a 24-hour turnaround, according to a message posted on Lewisburg's website. Brown said that the National Guard, which can get test results back within 40 minutes, will also be doing testing.

Brown said that diesel has been detected in the river from Anthony to Lewisburg, a distance of about 11 miles, but has not been detected farther south in Alderson.

The nearby Alderson water treatment plant is downstream of the spill, on the Greenbrier, but officials said it has not yet been contaminated.

Protective booms have been set up in the river outside the Alderson plant and testing there has not detected diesel, Brown said. Booms have also been set up around the Lewisburg plant, a message on the city's website said.

Ronceverte Elementary, Lewisburg Elementary, Frankford Elementary, Eastern Greenbrier Middle School, Greenbrier Episcopal School and

Greenbrier East High School are all closed on today because of the water contamination.

The Lewisburg water system pumps about 2 million gallons, Brown said. It has 135 miles of main water line, according to its most recent filing with the state Public Service Commission.

State officials from several agencies remain in contact with local emergency management officials and are assisting as needed, said West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources Public Information Officer Toby Wagoner.

Aaron Huffman, co-owner of the General Lewis Inn in Lewisburg, said his inn is officially closed, unable to offer toilet or shower service.

He said that all their weekend guests checked out Sunday. He found a room at a bed and breakfast in White Sulphur Springs for the one guest who was checking in on Sunday.

"We have quite a few people coming this weekend and we have to call them," he said. "I don't know exactly what we're going to do."

Reach David Gutman

at david.gutman@wvgazette.com, 304-348-5119

- See more at:

<http://www.wvgazette.com/article/20150125/GZ01/150129508#sthash.86p6NRFM.dpuf>

Patrick Howell

Chief of Staff

U.S. Representative Evan Jenkins

502 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

(202) 225-3452

